

Section II-iii-N

Highly Erodible Land

General

The basis for identifying highly erodible land is the erodibility index of a soil map unit. The erodibility index of a soil is determined by dividing the potential erodibility for each soil by the soil loss tolerance (T) value established for the soil. The T value represents the maximum annual rate of soil erosion that could take place without causing a decline in long-term productivity. A soil map unit with an erodibility index of 8 or more is a highly erodible soil map unit.

Water Erosion

Potential erodibility for sheet and rill erosion is estimated by multiplying the following factors of the Universal Soil Loss Equation (USLE):

1. Rainfall and runoff factor (R)
2. Susceptibility of the soil to water erosion (K)
3. Combined effects of slope length and steepness (LS)

The erodibility index for sheet and rill erosion is represented by the formula $RKLS/T$. A soil map unit is highly erodible if the LS factor for the shortest length and minimum percent of slope is used and the $RKLS/T$ value equals or exceeds 8.

A soil map unit is potentially highly erodible if: (1) the $RKLS/T$ value using the minimum LS factor is less than 8 and (2) the $RKLS/T$ value using the maximum LS factor is equal to or greater than 8.

Highly Erodible Soils

When surface vegetation is removed from large areas of land, soil erosion often results. Sediment, the result of erosion, has a number of adverse effects as a pollutant. In suspension it reduces the amount of sunlight available to aquatic plants, covers fish spawning areas and food supplies and clogs gills of fish. Phosphorus moves into receiving waters attached to soil particles. Excessive quantities can cause algae blooms. Sediment fills drainage ditches, road ditches and stream channels and shortens the life of reservoirs.

Highly erodible soils are those soils that have a potential to erode at a rate far greater than what is considered tolerable soil loss. The potential erodibility of a soil takes into consideration a) rainfall and runoff, b) the susceptibility of the soil to erosion and c) the combined effects of slope length and steepness. A highly erodible soil has a potential erodibility that would cause a considerable decline in long term productivity of that soil as well as possible negative effects on water quality.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE SOILS IN KENNEBEC COUNTY, MAINE

(The information in this table indicates the dominant soil condition but does not eliminate the need for onsite investigation. This list of HEL soils is a frozen list as of 1987)

<u>Publication Symbol</u>	<u>Map Unit Name</u>
BkD	BERKSHIRE VERY STONY FINE SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
BuC2	BUXTON SILT LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED
BuD2	BUXTON SILT LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED
HfC	HARTLAND VERY FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
HfD	HARTLAND VERY FINE SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES
HkD	HINCKLEY GRAVELLY SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
HrC	HOLLIS FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
HrD	HOLLIS FINE SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES
HtD	HOLLIS-ROCK OUTCROP COMPLEX, 15 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
LyC	LYMAN LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES
LyD	LYMAN LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES
PcD	PAXTON VERY STONY FINE SANDY LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES
PdD2	PAXTON-CHARLTON FINE SANDY LOAMS, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED
PeD	PAXTON-CHARLTON VERY STONY FINE SANDY LOAMS, 15 TO 30 PERCENT SLOPES
SkC2	SCIO VERY FINE SANDY LOAM, 8 TO 15 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED
SuD2	SUFFIELD SILT LOAM, 15 TO 25 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED
SuE2	SUFFIELD SILT LOAM, 25 TO 45 PERCENT SLOPES, ERODED

